John R. Sandsbury

Jany. 18. 1891

Nantucket Jan 18th /91

To Wm Brewster Esq

Dear Sir I thought I would drop you a line in regard to affairs on Muskeget the House I occupied last Summer has been sold to a man by the name of Malley and he is now there and has been all winter the man who owned the House has built another one a little larger a short distance to the Eastward he is a taxidermist and is interested with a man named Cahoon who lives somewhere on Cape Cod and I understand Intend to carry on the Business of Stuffing Birds and furnishing Wing &c for Ladies Hats next year the Government is to Build a new

life Saving Station through the Summer and I think the Gulls will need more Careful Watching that at any previous year I have Engaged that those of Mr Berg stay for next Season So if you wish for me to look after the Birds next Season Please drop me a line because if I am not to look after them I must make a little different arrangements in regard to fishing Should you happen to be in Nantucket any time before April I should be very Happy to have you Call on us at No 21 Milk St

I am Sir yours Very Truly
John R Sandsbury
Nantucket
Mass

John R. Sandsbury.
Jany. 26. 1891.

Nantucket Jan 25th
1891

To Wm Brewster Esq

Dear Sir your letter of the 20th
received the 21st in it you you
requested me to write explicitly
what I would agree to do I will
say that I will agree to watch
the Birds with as much care as
if they were my own personal
property & put a stop to all
depredations that lay in my
power for three months or such
time as you may determine
for $30.00 Thirty Dollars Per Month
I think it would be the best
Idea to be Commisioned a Special
Police officer for without some thing
of that kind I could not have
the authority to act And as
you say a good start would

would make it comparatively easy to protect the birds afterwards Mr Thomas Cahoons partner has his new house nearly completed I can arrange with the Sheriff at any time to get a warrant for an arrest any time you say the 20th of May a good time to commence operations I think it would as the terns generally make their first appearance from the 5th to the 10th and increase until about the 15th or 20th when about the whole flight seem to be here but I think it would be well to have notices put up at different points on the Island beforehand or notice given through the papers with proper notice and a careful watch I think that prosecution might be nearly if not entirely avoided of course I should expect no additional salary whether a commissioned officer or not the 30.00 per month would cover the whole except the printing of notices should you recommend ~~and~~ to put up I should live right there on the Island and tend lobstering between whiles My wife is well & wishes to be remembered to you hoping to get an early reply I am sir

Yours Very Truly

John R Sandsbury

21 milk st Wantucket

P.S. Mass

Please give our kindest regards to Mr Kennard & Mr Francis if you see them

Nantucket March 2nd 1891

Mr Wm Brewster Esq

Dear Sir Enclosed please find a copy of the notices used when my Brother was Employed to Watch the Birds on Muskeget I have about twenty of them Please write me what alteration they need more than the name of the officer if any these notices were to be Pasted on a Piece of Board and nailed to a Stake and Stuck up at different Points of the Island I wrote to the Commisioners at the State House to define my Authority But have not as yet had any advice from them I am Sir

Your Obedient Servant

John R Sandsbury

Nantucket

Tuckernuck Mail Mass

John R. Sandsbury

Mar. 2. 1891.

Tuckernuck Nantucket March 20th
1891

Wm Brewster Esq

Dear Sir your favor of 15th inst is at hand I recieved a letter from Mr Brackett a few days after I wrote you last and a few Books with the Laws in regard to fish & Birds I am glad that the Notices are all right I thought that their being Painted by Order of the Owners of the Island might make some difference I think by the way things are working on Muskeget that I shall have a Chance to show my Authority before the Summer is Over I really hope that the bill befor the legislature will become a law as it will be awkward to have to go to town for a Warrant there by giving Persons a chance to remove all the things that may be brought up in Evidence I should be glad to hear from you at any time

I have removed with my family up to Tuckernuck so when you write you will please put Tuckernuck Mail on the Envelope and then it will be sent up by the first one that happens to be in town My wife sends her regards but thinks it will be doubtful about having a very large field of Potatoes this Summer I am sir

Yours Truly
John R Sandsbury
Nantucket

Tuckernuck Mail Mass

John R. Sandsbury

March. 20. 1891.

Tuckernuck Nantucket
April 25th 1891

To Wm Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir — Your letter of the 19th came to hand last Evening I do not go to town very often just now as I am very busy with my Boat getting her ready for the Season Hence the delay I hope you will have a very pleasant trip to Europe and am glad you are going to try to make us a call before you leave I shall be glad to make Mr Mackintire's acquaintance and will do all in my power to Entertain him, when he comes in regard to the Salary the way you speak of would be very agreeable indeed any of your friends will always find a Welcome with us My Wife joins in sending her best wishes

Yours Very Truly John R Sandsbury

John R. Sandsbury
April 25 - 1891.

Muskeget June 3rd 1891

To Wm Brewster Esq

Dear Sir I received your letter of 26th of May last Evening am sorry to hear that you are not coming to see us this summer I came here on the 18th of May and put up the notices on the 20th on Muskeget at all the places anyone would be likely to land 2 on Gravelly Island and Adams Island and South Point the tern are very numerous and are beginning to lay there are several Cats on the Island that have been left by Parties coming here in Winter which i think will be more Destructive to the Birds & Eggs than any other thing just now I shall set traps for them and try to get rid of them if Possible i have heard of Mr Mackay quite often but never met him I shall be glad to do so My Wife joins in sending our kindest regards and hope you will enjoy your trip. I am Sir

Yours Truly John R Sandsbury

John R. Sandebury
June. 3rd 1891

Tuckernuck Oct 6th 1890

Mr William Brewster Esq

Dear Sir I thought I would drop you a few lines as I thought you would probably be at home by this time the Teen are here yet but they seem to be bunching up as they generally do just before leaving they have been very plentiful this year But I have noticed that large number of the young ones have been devoured by Hawks the People have been very good all that I have seen have left as soon as I spoke to them without disturbing the Eggs there has been a Club organised this year known as the Muskeget Island Club and some of them have been here this summer and when I spoke to them in regard to the Gulls they said they would be extra careful not

John S. Sandsbury
R. Oct.-6-1891.

to Shoot any of them that man that intended to come shooting Bulls for Millinery Purposes did not come but his Wife was here about three Weeks and i have good reason to think She came to find out how things were arranged. I afterwards heard they intended to come down the 1st of Oct for two or three Weeks When the Law went off and 2 or 3 men Engaged to Shoot Birds for them but they have not Put in an appearance yet I have done nothing at Lobstering this year and next to nothing fishing there are a few Plovers around but not near as many as usual at this time of the year my Wife Wishes to be remembered to you We are now living on Buckernuck Where he will be happy to see you at any time With many good Wishes and thanking you for Past favors I remain Yours &c
John R. Sandsbury

Tuckernuck Nantucket Jan 12th
1892

Wm Brewster Esq

Dear Sir

I recieved a Postal from the Commissioners on inland fisheries and Game Yesterday Stating that at a meeting of the Commissioners held on Jan 4th it was Voted that the appointments of Deputies Should Expire on the third Wedy of Jan of Each year So that if i desired a renewal to make applic-tion at Once if you think that your Party do not Care to Employ me the Coming Season I do not Care for the appointment of Deputy Will you Please Write me as Early as Convenient Whether you Wish to Employ me or not So that I Can make the application if needed yours Very Truly John R Sandsbury

John R. Sandsbury
Jany. 18-1892.

Nantucket Jan 28th 1872

To Wm Brewster Esq

Dear Sir

Your favor of 19th is at hand in reply I will say that I will look after the Weirs the Coming Season on the same terms as last Season viz 30.00 per month for six months Commencing May 20th I have sent to the Commissioners for an appointment as Deputy My Wife is well and sends her regards to you Yours Very Truely

John R Sandsbury

John R. Sandsbury.
Jany. 23 - 1892.

Muskeget I. May 20th / 92

To Wm Brewster Esq

Dear Sir I wrote you some time since from Tuckernuck but suppose you must have been away at time as I have not heard from you since I have been here a week and had all the notices renewed the Gulls are here in large numbers larger I think than they have been for a number of years as early as now. there are 10 people now on the Island besides ourselves some after Quahogs & some for pleasure so that I do not care for anything I can. Given all warning in regard to disturbing the birds and they do not seem inclined to disturb them yet I am keeping a good lookout for them it is nearly

John R. Sandsbury
May 20-1892.

For the birds to commence laying their Eggs the shores have changed considerable since you was here making a great deal more shallow water on the inside and making it more Island than. When you were here I have got a good house this year so that if you should wish to come down and bring a friend with you we could accommodate you better than before My Wife sends her regards to you and she would be pleased to hear from you at any time I am

Yours Very Respectfully
John R Sandsbury

Muskeget June 12th /92

To Wm Brewster Esq.

Dear Sir I have a case to report that I dont understand Exactly there is a large number of Persons Stopping on the Island Engaged in Catching Clams for the Markets and it keeps me busy all the time looking after them to day the most of them went to Nantucket for food and I left at 10.30 Am for Tuckernuck for my Mail and returned at 2:45 P.M. a Yatcht Came up from Nantucket and landed on the back Side of the Island (at noon) it was the Seminole of Nantucket in Charge of one Orrin Hull they were Walking about the hills Evidently Picking up Eggs

John R. Sandsbury.
June 12-1892.

as soon as I [illegible] in
pursuit but they got on board and [illegible]
fore I got to them they took a
passenger from the Island name
E. A. Elliott. now what had i
better do in the case I know the
Boat and the one who had her in
charge and one of the crew that
was with him and also the passenger
to town but I cannot swear they
took any eggs Please write me
soon as possible and advise me
what to do in this case.

Respectfully your [illegible]
John R Sandsbury

Muskeget Aug 3rd 1892

Mr William Brewster

Dear Sir your letter of the 30th recieved this morning in regard to having trouble with a Collector the Person was Mr Anthony Smalley who represented Nantucket in the Legislature in 1888 & 1889 he carried away fully 800 Eggs there was considerable talk among the People around here about allowing a man to take so many Eggs and none of them allowed to touch them, I wrote to Mr Brackett at Winchester to learn if there was any Limit to the number of Eggs to be taken on one Permit, but never heard from him, but took no further notice of it as People still talk say I have never made any report

to Washington and would not be
Seen, Enough to think of it if I
have any reports to make it shall be
to you, unless Otherwise Ordered, there
has been a number of Stories
Circulated [illegible] Without any
foundation, the Tern i think
have increased fully one third of
last year, there have been a very
large amount of young Hatched
And the Ants have destroyed a
good many of them, Mr Mackey
has been With me the last two
days he left this morning, Please give
my regards to Mr Miller He Would
like to have another Visit from him
any time, My Wife sends her best
respects to you I hope you will
be able to make us a Visit this year

I am Sir yours Very Truly
John R. Sandebury

John R. Sandsbury.
Aug. 3 - 1892.

John R. Landsbury
Sept. 13 - 1892.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Helmes Island [illegible] for the
year by men who are in the
business of taking Clams and
fishing there are very fifty
men engaged in the business
so that in time of breeding
the terns Eggs requires a good
deal of watching if you wish
for me to look after them
another year please inform me
as early as convenient so that
I can make better arrangements
another year I shall have to
get a small light Draft Sail
Boat so that I can go from
one Island to another quicker
than I could with a Dory if
I should see anything that looks
suspicious My Wife sends her
best wishes to you please
accept mine too very truly yours
John R. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

John R. Sandsbury
Nov. 4-1892.

John R. Sandsbury
Jany 9-1894

Nantucket Jan 9th 1894

To Hon. [illegible] the Exp

Dear Sir there is a petition being Circulated in Nantucket and recieving a large number of Signers to allow the Public to take [illegible] Eggs on Muskegat and Gravelly Islands during the Month of June now last year the term were laying the 1st of June and by the last of the month [illegible] Practically done a few being laid after which I have come to the Conclusion by Birds that come later in the season the Black Heads or Laughing Gulls lay through the last two [illegible] in June and have Just Commenced to gain in Numbers the Common Tern are [illegible] but I am afraid if the Petition is granted it will greatly Delay the Laughing Gulls from Increasing in

numbers I write this thinking
that it might be of interest for
you to know how the People are
working to get the Old Cerastom
renewed I have been quite sick
for 3 weeks but am about again
And hope to hear that you are
enjoying good health Again
Please send me what you
think of Egg Business My Wife
sends her best respect to you please
accept mine too Yours Very Respy
John R Sandsbury
Wauluckett -
Mass

John R. Sandsbury
Jany. 18-1894

Nantucket Jan 18th 1894

Mr Wm Brewster

I received your letter Monday 15th I have got out a Counter Petition But as the Other Petition Was Circulated While I was Sick I had no knowledge of it until it been Carried through the and by Misrepresentation recieved the Signature of most of the People On the Island the Majority of whom did not understand the nature of the Petition when they Signed it I have written to Mr Wm Ray President of the Muskeget Island Club 166 Devonshire Street Boston and I think the club will be greatly interested to keep the Law as it is And Mr Geo H Mackay 25 Congress St Boston will also do all he can to keep the Present Law in force

I enclose herein the Petition with
What few names i was able to get
I am Sir yours Very Resp'y
John R Sandsbury

Nantucket Dec 10th
1894

Mr Wm Brewster

Dear Sir as it is drawing near the 1st of January I thought I would write and see if you think the Society will want to Employ me for the Season of 1895 to look after the Tern I have got to return my appointment as Deputy before the 15th of January and apply for a new One for the Ensuing year if I want to get it But I dont want to apply for one unless I have the Birds to Care for Please let me know as Early as Convenient as I am Stopping at Wauskeget this Winter and Cant get to Nantucket very often my Wife Sends her best wishes to you I have written to you twice Since last Summer but i think you must have

John R. Sandsbury.
Dec. 10-1894.

have been away I was very
Disappointed in not seeing you
this Summer but if I have the
care of the Birds I hope to see next
and if I dont I shall be very
glad to see you in Nantucket at
any time Yours Very Respectfully,
John R Sandsbury